



FY 2023-24 Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) Grants

Funding Announcement Q&A Tracker

Funding Announcement Link:

[FY 2023-24 Violence Intervention & Prevention \(VIP\) Grants](#)

About this Document:

This guide will provide an overview of questions and answers regarding the VIP [funding announcement](#) and application process, which opened on November 30th, 2023. Responses will be provided as staff is able to process questions through January 17th, 2024.

Questions?

Please contact PCCD staff at ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov with 'VIP Grants' in the subject line.

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1. Eligible Applicants

- a) *Would an IU [Intermediate Unit] or the state safety center be eligible to apply for this grant? If this grant is not eligible, could you recommend one that would be?*

Answer: An Intermediate unit is not an eligible applicant under the VIP solicitation. Only community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, municipalities, counties, and district attorney's offices are eligible to make application. However, nothing precludes an Intermediate Unit from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included as a recipient agency to provide specific goods, activities, and/or services related to implementation of the proposed project from an eligible applicant. Please see page 3-4 of the funding announcement under the *Eligible Applicants* for more details.

PCCD encourages organizations who are interested in funding opportunities to check out the 'Open Funding Opportunities' webpage for active grant opportunities [here](#). You can also sign up to receive future funding announcement notifications on PCCD's website [here](#).

- b) *Are current VIP grant awardees eligible to apply for the new VIP grant opportunity? What if we requested a no-cost extension to continue work into 2024?*

Answer: Yes. Under PCCD's VIP funding guidelines (found on page 2 of the funding announcement), entities that have previously received funding from the agency, including 2021 and 2022 VIP grants, are eligible to apply under the FY 2023-24 VIP solicitation. Please note that PCCD is requesting applicants provide information within the initial funding request form regarding any prior, current, and/or prospective funding sources to support gun violence and/or group violence reduction efforts so that PCCD can take that information into account when reviewing VIP funding requests. In addition, applicants that have previously received funding from PCCD or another funder to support gun violence reduction or community violence prevention efforts are asked to describe how proposed new activities would differ from (or build upon/expand) previously/currently funded projects or explain why funding is needed to continue services/programming.

Details on those applicants receiving priority consideration under the FY23-24 VIP funding announcement can be found on page 2-3 of the funding announcement.

- c) *We are a charter school with a 501(c)(3) status. Are we eligible? What about K-12 schools/districts?*

Answer: School entities (as defined in the PA Public School Code) are not considered to be eligible to make direct application for VIP funds. However, nothing precludes a school entity, including a charter school, from receiving services from an eligible applicant or being included as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant to provide specific goods, activities, and/or services related to implementation of the proposed project.

- d) *We are a District Attorney's Office (DAO) potentially interested in applying for FY 2023-24 VIP Grants funding, however, we have a question - are we, the DAO, considered a separate applicant from other City government agencies? For example, if the City's Department of Health were also to apply for this funding, would we have to apply in conjunction with them, or could each agency submit separate applications for separate programming/funding?*

Answer: District attorney's offices are considered a separate applicant from their host municipality and as such nothing precludes the District Attorney's Office or the county from submitting separate and distinct applications. Please note: if an application from a District Attorney's Office is recommended for funding by the School Safety and Security Committee, the county will need to submit an application on the District Attorney's Office's behalf in PCCD's Egrants System.

- e) *The funding announcement states police departments may not apply but rather should go through their municipality. We have a unique situation in that we are a regional police department consisting of three municipalities. Under this scenario, we have been permitted to apply to other grants that have the same guidelines.*

Answer: Law enforcement agencies may not make direct application for funding under this solicitation; the regional police department should work with another eligible applicant, as defined on page 3, to make application on behalf of the law enforcement agency.

- f) *Could a Public Defender's Office be the applying entity?*

Answer: Counties must make application on behalf of a public defender's office under its jurisdiction.

- g) *Can multiple government agencies within the same municipality apply, or are all agencies within a city considered the same applicant?*

Answer: Under PCCD's guidelines, a "county" or "municipality" must be the direct applicant for funds; individual departments, agencies, or subdivisions of the county or municipality cannot apply directly for VIP funding. Note: One or more county or municipality departments or agencies can be listed as proposed recipient entities within the funding request of an eligible applicant (e.g., a county could include a specific department or office, or multiple subdivisions, as proposed subrecipients for grant funding).

- h) *Are probation & parole departments considered "law enforcement" for the purpose of being considered an eligible applicant? In other words, can the probation and parole department be the applicant or would the county be the applicant?*

Answer: Under the VIP funding announcement, only counties, municipalities, district attorney's offices, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to make direct application for grant funding. However, a probation and parole department can be listed as a recipient agency within the funding request of an eligible applicant.

- i) *What is the recommendation for the administrator of the grant? If we go through the DA office but have several non-profits that would provide services within the grant.*

Answer: PCCD cannot recommend which organization is best suited to be the administrator of the grant; it is incumbent on the eligible applicants in a given community to make the determination of which organization should be the applicant agency and the other partner organizations as the recipient agencies. It is important to note that whichever agency is the applicant agency is responsible for grants management, reporting, and performance.

2. Eligible Activities/Programs

a) *Would a gun buy-back program for a community or county be an eligible program activity?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funds, PCCD staff cannot answer questions about specific proposals. It is incumbent on the applicant to describe how their project aligns with the funding priorities and activities as outlined on page 4, *Section 5. Eligible Program Activities and Expenses*. Applicants will be asked to identify the category from the list (i-v) that is most applicable to the project they are proposing. Applicants seeking funding for 'OTHER' programs/models should clearly describe how proposed activities align with VIP funding goals, objectives, and priorities, including how the proposed project will prevent/reduce gun violence in a given community. Applicants seeking FY23-24 VIP Grant funding will also be asked to identify how their proposed project aligns with these funding priorities, as well as the specific type(s) of anti-violence strategies identified on page 5 that will be used with grant funding.

b) *Could this grant be used to create a DBT Therapy Comprehensive Program (individual therapy, skills group, skill coaching, therapist consultation) for at risk youth and their caretakers that cannot afford to get the treatment?*

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funds, PCCD staff cannot answer questions about specific proposals. It is incumbent on the applicant to describe how their project aligns with the funding priorities and activities as outlined on page 4, *Section 5. Eligible Program Activities and Expenses*. Applicants will be asked to identify the category from the list (i-v) that is most applicable to the project they are proposing. Applicants seeking funding for 'OTHER' programs/models should clearly describe how proposed activities align with VIP funding goals, objectives, and priorities, including how the proposed project will prevent/reduce gun violence in a given community. Applicants seeking FY23-24 VIP Grant funding will also be asked to identify how their proposed project aligns with these funding priorities, as well as the specific type(s) of anti-violence strategies identified on page 5 that will be used with grant funding.

c) *Can funds be requested for prevention activities only?*

Answer: Yes. In the SurveyMonkey form, you will be asked to select the model type that you think most closely aligns with your project's design and focus. These approaches include Prevention, Intervention, Transformation & Healing, and Other. Please reference the VIP funding announcement for a more detailed description of these approaches, including examples.

d) *Are these funds specifically for gun violence prevention or would prevention of domestic violence also be a good fit?*

Answer: As stated in the funding announcement, these grants address ‘community violence’ as defined as intentional interpersonal violence (e.g., gun violence, group violence). VIP funding is intended to prioritize support for effective local intervening and preventative measures to stop gun and group violence.

e) Under the CCVI funding announcement, what qualifies as intervention (versus prevention)?

Answer: The table on page 5 of the funding announcements provides examples of strategies that would be considered intervention. The table also provides an overview and examples of what would be considered prevention strategies.

f) If you currently receive funding already under the FY22-23 CCVI funding announcement, will you be able to use new funding to expand current programming?

Answer: Current CCVI grantees are eligible to apply for funding under this track. As part of the initial request form, PCCD is requesting applicants provide information regarding any prior, current, and/or prospective funding sources to support gun violence and/or group violence reduction efforts so that PCCD can take that information into account when reviewing funding requests. In addition, applicants that have previously received funding from PCCD or another funder to support gun violence reduction or community violence prevention efforts are asked to describe how proposed new activities would differ from (or build upon/expand) previously/currently funded projects or explain why funding is needed to continue services/programming.

Additionally, applicants should review the details on those applicants receiving priority consideration and the other factors that may be considered as part of the review process under the FY23-24 VIP funding announcement that can be found on page 2-3.

g) Can you please expand on the definition of ‘community violence’ defined as intentional interpersonal violence (e.g., gun violence, group-related violence)? How does the funding eligibility determine between cases of interpersonal violence and group related violence. Are both under the scope of community violence?

Answer: For the purpose of this funding announcement, community violence is defined as “intentional interpersonal violence (e.g., gun violence, group-related violence) in areas of Pennsylvania with high rates of violent crime using [Uniform Crime Report offense data](#) or similar local crime statistics.” Historically, the School Safety and Security Committee has [funded](#) a wide range of programs and activities designed to prevent and reduce community violence through the VIP Grants Program, including strategies that specifically address interpersonal violence as well as group-related violence. More detail regarding eligible program activities and expenses that can be supported using VIP funds can be found under *Section 5. Eligible Program Activities and Expenses* found on page 4. The table found on page 5 outlines types of anti-violence strategies that can be supported with VIP funds (e.g., Prevention, Intervention, and Transformation & Healing), including examples.

h) Would this funding be appropriate to support the expansion of an existing domestic violence Lethality Assessment Protocol training program for local law enforcement?

Answer: Due to the competitive nature of the funds, PCCD staff cannot answer questions about specific proposals, including proposed project activities. It is incumbent on the applicant to describe how their project aligns with the funding priorities and activities as outlined on page 4, *Section 5. Eligible Program Activities and Expenses*. Applicants will be asked to identify the category from the list (i-v) that is most applicable to the project they are proposing. Applicants seeking funding for 'OTHER' programs/models should clearly describe how proposed activities align with VIP funding goals, objectives, and priorities, including how the proposed project will prevent/reduce gun violence in a given community. Applicants seeking FY23-24 VIP Grant funding will also be asked to identify how their proposed project aligns with these funding priorities, as well as the specific type(s) of anti-violence strategies identified on page 5 that will be used with grant funding.

3. Proposal Requirements

a) Is a consortium of community organizations required in a project proposal?

Answer: A consortium of community organizations is not required under the VIP track; however, priority consideration will be given to those applicants seeking funding to support collaborative projects co-designed and co-implemented with multiple partners who are included as proposed sub-recipients. Under the CCVI track, project partners are required. Please review page 14 of the Appendix for suggested cross-sector partners. Supporting documentation is required for all partners named in the proposal.

b) Where do I find the Philadelphia crime statistics? When I follow the link <https://www.ucr.pa.gov/PAUCRSPUBLIC/Home/Index> and look at Philadelphia County, Troop 1, it is all 0s, zeros, for this year and last year. I must be looking in the wrong place.

Answer: Statewide crime data is available through the Pennsylvania State Police's UCR [Crime in Pennsylvania Dashboard](#). Applicants are encouraged to consider this and additional data sources as they develop their applications (slide 7 from the webinars provides additional links to data). Examples of additional local data sources related to gun violence in the City of Philadelphia include, but are not limited to, the [Philadelphia Police Department's Crime Map and Stats website](#), as well as the [Mapping Philadelphia's Gun Violence Crisis dashboard](#) from the Philadelphia Office of the Controller. We encourage all applicants to also explore the resources provided on the papeacealliance.org website to assist them in the creation of their application.

4. Geographic Location

a) Will this grant allow for local preventative efforts to be directed in one PA county (the county that we serve)?

Answer: The geographic location your project supports is up to the eligible applicant. In the SurveyMonkey form, you will be asked to select either statewide program, regional program, county-wide program, municipality/city program, or neighborhood program. Additionally, the VIP Proposal Narrative requires the applicant to describe the location and need(s) of the proposed project's geographic area(s)/communities and/or target populations.

5. Awards & Funding

- a) *Do you know the approximate number of grants that will be awarded in each category?*

Answer: No. There are a number of considerations for funding decisions, including number of applications received, the number of applications received that fall under one of the priority consideration areas, geographic diversity, other applications received for similar activities in the region, the applicant's compliance history with fiscal and program reporting, their historical success in implementing PCCD-funded programs/initiatives that met their intended goals, and available funding.

- b) *Can we safely assume that another VIP RFP will open in a year or so with a start date closer to our current grant end date? I'm unclear how the cycles have been historically determined and want to make sure we come in with the correct strategy for ensuring a continuation of our services.*

Answer: Availability of funds through the Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Grant program are dependent on a number of factors, including the timing of when the state budget is enacted. Funding is also contingent on the appropriation and authorization of VIP funds. Please also review the question and answer (1)(b).

- c) *Are the priority consideration areas weighted?*

Answer: No. The priority considerations are not weighted. There are a number of considerations for funding decisions, as outlined in the funding announcement document.

6. Budget/Allowable Expenses

- a) *How do I calculate the maximum amount of grant funds I can request?*

Answer: Organizations may not request more than 50% of their annual operating budget for the entire proposed project period (up to 36 months). To determine your organization's total annual operating expenditures, please refer to your organization's expenditures for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. For example, if your organization's operating budget is \$150,000 during that period, the maximum dollar amount of VIP Grant funds you can request is \$75,000.

- b) *The West Ed TA will be provided, but if we need other TA for a specific strategy in addition to the state sponsored free TA as part of the grant, is this an allowable and non-duplicative cost?*

Answer: Allowable grant expenses are provided under *Section 6. Allowable Grant Expenses* beginning on page 6. Page 7 of the funding announcement states, "Applicants can also request a portion of their VIP Grant funding to support project-specific technical assistance for program or model implementation (e.g., training staff and consultants in a given approach, establishing data collection/reporting protocols, etc.)."

7. SurveyMonkey/Application Questions

- a) *If we are a county applying for several jurisdictions, in the Survey Monkey application where we disclose prior grants, are we to disclose ALL of the prior grants held by each partner? Or, by the applicant agency only?*

Answer: The applicant agency must provide information on prior grants they have directly received within the application form. While not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to also provide information on prior grants for all project partners named as part of the application, especially if they are proposed subrecipients who would receive grant funding as part of a potential award.

- b) *I am preparing a budget for the FY23-24 VIP Grant funding announcement. In the Survey Monkey form, there is a section about our organization's budget and there are two questions I am hoping I could receive clarity on: the amount of expenditures and the budget documentation. Would a list of all of our grants and the amounts we received from them in FY23 be sufficient for documentation? Is there a specific format or piece of documentation that you are looking for?*

Answer: For this funding announcement, an organization's operating budget is defined as the total amount of expenditures the organization made within the one-year period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Organizations may provide copies of their financial statements, tax documentation, or custom reports produced from financial management/accounting software (e.g., QuickBooks or similar platforms) to substantiate their operating budget. Because an organization's operating budget is based on expenses, not actual or expected revenue, lists of grants and amounts would not suffice.